

Dear Mr. Powell and Commissioners,

I believe we have a lack of informative television programming. I understand that the free market requires programming to attract viewers.

But, our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues.

Since broadcasters have no real (monetary) incentive to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming.

At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day. These programs should be required to be aired in or near prime time to assure that they have a positive impact on public awareness.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy must have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Sincerely,

Glenn Bellamy
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